

ANNEX 6-A

Summary of Technical Assistance by United States Antitrust Authorities

U.S. technical assistance is provided on a bilateral, multilateral, or regional basis. Bilateral assistance usually features long-term (periods of months or years) or short-term (weeks) in-country visits by senior legal and economic staff from the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission; the visits focus on specific concerns of the recipient agency through one-on-one discussions, workshops, and lectures. In-country visits often lead to ongoing *informal* follow-up consultations, often by telephone, fax, or e-mail. The United States also sponsors foreign agency staff in study visits (internships) to U.S. antitrust authorities. Technical assistance on a multilateral or regional basis is usually carried out through agency staff participation in conferences and symposiums, including many sponsored annually by organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Programs are tailored to meet the needs of assistance recipients. A significant focus involves conducting staff training on specific methods of competition analysis, investigative techniques, and prosecutorial or enforcement skills and procedures. Other efforts involve educating policymakers, the judiciary, the business community, and the general public about the role of competition policy in promoting the operation of markets and protecting consumers against anticompetitive interests; advising on writing or implementing competition laws and related regulations or policies; helping the recipient antitrust authority to define its role in initiating investigations; or providing consultative assistance on regulations and amendments to existing competition law that will enhance its enforcement efforts. Sometimes U.S. assistance occurs in the context of recipient nations' efforts to deregulate or restructure regulated industries, and accordingly antitrust agency staff with expertise in competition issues in the regulated industry will be assigned to provide assistance. This technical assistance is distinct from any the foreign government may receive from another U.S. agency that has regulatory expertise, since the relevant regulatory authority in the foreign government, as in the U.S., likely operates in a separate ministry from the competition authority, and is primarily concerned with aspects other than competition issues.